

April 28, 2008

The Common Council met as the Water Utility Board at 7:00 p.m. on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Tucker presiding and members Askren, Fuelling, Hoehn, Curtis, and Higgins attending. Others attending were Attorney Higgins; Supt. Gray; Comm. Maynard; Chief Beloit; Chief Waters; Geneva James; Mary Alice Rose; Dave and Judy Whitten; Ann Blackburn; Sis Claxton; Mary and Bruce Smith; Valerie Werkmeister – Posey County News; and arriving during the meeting, Sara Manifold – Mount Vernon Democrat; and Nancy Sexton.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to order by stating members were either mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. He added if not, he entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented.

Board member Askren moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented.

Seconded by Board member Hoehn.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker requested action on the claims presented.

Board member Askren moved the claims presented be allowed for payment. Seconded by Board member Curtis.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

*****CLAIMS*****

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the report of the Water Chairman.

Chairman Curtis stated he has some issues to bring up under New Business, so he will let Supt. Gray give the report.

Supt. Gray reported they have received the IDEM construction permit on the water works improvement project, which includes work from the raw water intakes to the new filters. He added they are waiting on approval from the DNR and the Army Corps of Engineers yet, but everything seems to be looking pretty good.

Supt. Gray continued his report by stating the plant did not sustain any damage from the earthquakes in the past few weeks, though they do have four leaks in the plant that need to be addressed.

Sara Manifold arrived at the meeting.

Supt. Gray then stated, in reference to the new computers (server and PC's) that had been discussed at the last meeting, he has the prices now. He stated prices include \$60/hour and \$30/day for travel on installation with a not-to-exceed cost of \$90/hour on the server.

Nancy Sexton arrived at the meeting.

Supt. Gray added the new server will cost \$2,572.00, government rate, and he would like to upgrade to this before he loses any data, as the computer they are using now is not an actual server. He added he would also like to purchase two other computers for \$1,200.00 each for the office.

Chairman Curtis asked the bottom line cost for everything, the server and two PC's ?

Supt. Gray replied he is not sure, he did not total them up.

Board member Fuelling replied \$5,027.00 roughly for everything.

Chairman Curtis stated the computers they are using are old, no question, and he has the money, therefore, he moves Supt. Gray be permitted to purchase the server and two PC's for the office. Seconded by Board member Hoehn.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Curtis asked how quickly the computers could be installed and implemented ?

Supt. Gray replied if he can use a credit card, he can get them more quickly, but he would rather not put that much money on his personal card, and wondered if he could get permission to use the city credit card for this purchase ? He then added hopefully things can be up and running by May 21.

Chairman Curtis moved permission to use the city credit card for the computer purchase be given. Seconded by Board member Hoehn.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Supt. Gray continued his report by discussing the temporary intake structure. He explained they discovered the bolts were very rusty in the deep well, and upon further investigation, it was discovered that the pipe was also disintegrated. He stated as a result, they will need to set up a temporary pumping structure, which they would have needed to do anyway due to the Aventine work.

Chairman Curtis stated in order to install this temporary system, they could drill below the retaining wall at the riverfront, but that would be very expensive. He added what could be done for the most reasonable cost would be to construct the pumping structure on the last two parking spaces to the west at the riverfront.

Board member Fuelling added that would keep the structure higher and drier as well.

Supt. Gray agreed and added the structure is designed to be submerged.

Board member Higgins added that is the higher end of the riverfront as well, and as a result, not many people park down on that end.

Supt. Gray stated it will take them a couple of years to get the spaces back, and they actually will need to figure out their next move, though this is not intended to be a permanent fix.

Chairman Curtis stated this needs to be taken before the Board of Works, since they will be taking some parking spaced away from the riverfront. He therefore moved request be taken to the Board of Works and that two spaces on the west end of the riverfront parking lot be used to construct the temporary pumping station. Seconded by Board member Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously. He then stated Supt. Gray also needs to make contact with the Park Board about this.

Supt. Gray replied he has already done that and they are fine with the request.

Board member Higgins asked if they are hoping to have the computers up and running by May 21 ?

Supt. Gray replied yes, though they just received the software today, Keystone says by May 16 they should be ready to go. He added the accounts are balancing perfectly.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any other questions ?

Nancy Sexton approached and asked how big the pumping station was going to be ?

Supt. Gray replied it will be mostly underground, probably three to four feet will be above ground, and it will not block the view of the river.

Ms. Sexton asked if there is going to be a motor and if it will be running all of the time ?

Supt. Gray replied yes, it will be churning 24/7, and it is loud, but it will be buried so no one will notice the noise.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any other questions of the Water Chairman or Water Supt. ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker asked if the Clerk-Treasurer had any Communications for the Board ?

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe replied not at this time.

Mayor Tucker stated on the Legal portion of the Agenda is a Letter of Engagement for Ice Miller on the financing for the water project.

Attorney Higgins added they all received a copy of the letter in their packets and this is basically a follow up from the last meeting concerning the rate study and the financing. She added the tentative sale date for the bonds will be sometime in the next 10 days, this opinion from Ice Miller is needed due to the sale of the bonds.

Board member Curtis moved the Board accept the Letter of Engagement for Ice Miller. Seconded by Board member Higgins.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker then requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Board voting as follows:

Askren – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Board ?

There was no response.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any Old Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any New Business ?

Board member Curtis stated in reference to the expansion at the plant for the filters, the building will also have to be expanded to the west, very close to the city garage's salt barn. He added Supt. Gray has talked with Comm. Maynard about possibly moving the salt barn and they think they may have located some property on Kimball, just north of Bluff Road, 1.9 acres. He added this area has more than adequate space and he then moved the Board give permission to have an appraisal done for possible purchase. Seconded by Board member Askren.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

Board member Hoehn asked if the water works would be making the purchase in exchange for the Street Department's property, and if all parties involve agree ?

Board member Curtis replied yes, that is correct.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Board voting as follows:

Askren – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker stated if there were no further business, he entertains a motion to adjourn.

Board member Fuelling moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Board member Higgins.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously and adjourned the meeting.

John Tucker
Mayor

ATTEST:

Cristi L. Wolfe
Clerk-Treasurer

The Common Council met immediately following the Water Utility Board on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Tucker presiding and members Askren, Fuelling, Hoehn, Curtis, and Higgins attending. Others attending were Attorney Higgins; Supt. Gray; Comm. Maynard; Chief Beloit; Chief Waters; Geneva James; Mary Alice Rose; Dave and Judy Whitten; Ann Blackburn; Sis Claxton; Mary and Bruce Smith; Valerie Werkmeister – Posey County News; Sara Manifold – Mount Vernon Democrat; and Nancy Sexton.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to order by stating members were either mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. He added if not, he entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented.

Councilwoman Askren moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented. Seconded by Councilman Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the reports of the Standing Committees.

Street & Light Chairwoman Askren stated she has no report but believes Comm. Maynard would like to discuss Clean Up Week.

Comm. Maynard stated Clean Up Week will be May 12 – 16, 2008 and there will be dumpsters located at the street department, Ewing Tire, and the recycle yard. He added the Mount Vernon Democrat will be running ads in the paper in the coming weeks, and there will be no Tire Amnesty Day this year. He then stated hopefully they will be able to have one in the fall.

Comm. Maynard continued his report by stating the Mill Creek project should be starting anytime so folks should expect delays on 4th Street. He added cars need to divert to 2nd and 3rd Streets and semis should stay on 4th Street. He concluded his report by stating May 6 is Election Day and trash normally picked up on Tuesday will be picked up on Wednesday.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Police & Dog Chairman Fuelling stated he has no report.

Chief Beloit stated he has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Fire Chairwoman Hoehn stated she has no report.

Chief Waters stated he has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Sewer Chairwoman Higgins stated she has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker asked if the Clerk-Treasurer had any Communications for the Council ?

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe replied not at this time.

Mayor Tucker stated the first item on the Legal portion of the Agenda is the 2nd reading of the proposed Ordinance to Rezone 209 E. Water Street from RM to CG, which passed unanimously at their previous meeting. He then asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the rezoning ?

There was no response.

Councilwoman Askren moved the ordinance pass on second reading. Seconded by Councilman Curtis.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Askren – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Askren moved the rules be suspended and the ordinance pass on third reading. Seconded by Councilwoman Hoehn.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Askren – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe added it will be numbered 08-06.

Mayor Tucker stated the next item is a Resolution to Transfer funds.

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe stated this is the last bit of city money they will be able to transfer – next month they will have to hit the water department up for a loan, or go to a bank. She stated before this transfer, the General Fund was down to \$47,000.00. which would not even cover payroll for the end of the month.

Councilman Curtis stated he would like to applaud the department heads for being cautious with their spending during this budget crisis, the city is very fortunate that they have not had to go to a bank as of yet.

With that, he moved the Resolution pass. Seconded by Councilwoman Higgins.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Askren – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe added it will be numbered 08-07.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Council ?

There was no response.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any Old Business ?

Councilwoman Askren stated the Council received a letter from Ron Greenfield.

Councilman Fuelling stated there are two parts of the letter that he feels the Council should address. 1. trash on the south side of Hwy 62; and 2. the by-pass and the number of semis, etc. especially at 4th and Main.

Mayor Tucker replied he contacted INDOT about the trash and as of April 21, that should have been taken care of, and it was, though he is not sure how long it will stay cleaned up.

Councilman Fuelling asked about the by-pass ?

Mayor Tucker replied he and Councilman Curtis are meeting with someone from the Lt. Governor's Office about that very situation, at least for now, they have their ear.

Councilman Fuelling stated he will get in contact with Mr. Greenfield and let him know what the Council has done about his concerns.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any New Business ?

Councilwoman Higgins stated she believes the Smiths are here and would like to address the Council.

Mr. Smith stated there is a lot of trash in their neighborhood and it keeps ending up in folks backyards; a block away a man is running a flea market out of his home; and none of these situations have changed in the past few years. He added lots of folks feel there is no use in trying to fight anything because once one

situation gets cleaned up, another crops up. He added many homeowners feel they have no control over what is happening in their neighborhood and he just wanted to make the Council aware of the situation. He then stated this is in the Kimball/Water Street area.

Mayor Tucker stated he has formed a committee for the Riverfront work: Mount Vernon Riverbend Coalition and they are starting to get some donations in. As a result of the work to be done, they are going to have a clean up on May 3 and some of the donations will go towards buying supplies for the clean up. He added the Coalition is working on obtaining their 501c3 status and any monies received will go into the Downtown Planning Fund. He stated they have two donations so far: \$50.00 from Schneider Funeral Home; and \$200 from TMI. He added there are others coming in as well and he would like acknowledge their receipt and return them to the Clerk-Treasurer for deposit into the Downtown Planning Fund. Again, he stated, some of the donations will be spent on the May 3 clean up.

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the reports of the Districts.

1st District Councilwoman Askren stated she has no report.

2nd District Councilman Fuelling stated he has no report.

3rd District Councilwoman Hoehn stated she has no report.

4th District Councilman Curtis stated he spoke with Evansville Western Railroad and they will be at the next meeting to address some steps they will be taking to alleviate the noise from the train off Lower New Harmony Road as well as update the Council on some crossing improvements. He then stated they will also update them on the right-of-way situation on the tracks at the riverfront.

Councilwoman-at-Large Higgins stated she always has safety issues to discuss. She stated with 4th Street being down to one lane for the work on Mill Creek and lots of traffic being diverted onto 2nd and 3rd Streets, folks need to be very cautious of children darting out from between the cars that are parked very close together.

Mayor Tucker stated if no one has plans, again, the clean up will be May 3 at the riverfront.

Attorney Higgins added there will also be free food.

Mayor Tucker stated Mrs. Tucker's 6th grade class came to City Hall last week and planted things in the planters in front and in back and cleaned up around City Hall as well. He added they were a beautiful bunch of kids and he appreciates their efforts.

Judy Whitten approached and asked if the donation money is being applied to the \$1M grant ?

Attorney Higgins replied yes, those monies can be used toward the match for the trail grant.

Mrs. Whitten asked how someone would go about making a contribution ?

Attorney Higgins replied make a check out to the City of Mount Vernon and in the memo section designate that for the Downtown Planning Fund. She then stated the city will accept them as donations.

Councilwoman Hoehn asked if for the clean up on May 3, the funds used to buy supplies, can that be used as part of the matching funds ?

Attorney Higgins replied yes.

Mayor Tucker agreed and added even the labor , the clean up, the equipment used, etc....

Mayor Tucker stated if there was no further business, he entertains a motion to adjourn.

Councilman Fuelling moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Councilwoman Hoehn.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously and adjourned the meeting.

John Tucker
Mayor

ATTEST:

Cristi L. Wolfe
Clerk-Treasurer